

more service-connected disabilities and is in need of such drugs and medicines for a service-connected disability; and

(ii) Is in need of nursing home care for reasons that do not include care for a VA adjudicated service-connected disability, or

(2) The veteran:

(i) Has a singular or combined rating of 50 or 60 percent based on one or more service-connected disabilities and is in need of such drugs and medicines; and

(ii) Is in need of nursing home care for reasons that do not include care for a VA adjudicated service-connected disability.

(b) VA may furnish a drug or medicine under paragraph (a) of this section only if the drug or medicine is included on VA's National Formulary, unless VA determines a non-Formulary drug or medicine is medically necessary.

(c) VA may furnish a drug or medicine under paragraph (a) of this section by having the drug or medicine delivered to the State home in which the veteran resides by mail or other means determined by VA.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 101, 501, 1710, 1741–1744)
[74 FR 19432, Apr. 29, 2009]

§ 51.43 Per diem and drugs and medicines—principles.

(a) As a condition for receiving payment of per diem under this part, the State home must submit to the VA medical center of jurisdiction for each veteran a completed VA Form 10–10EZ, Application for Medical Benefits (or VA Form 10–10EZR, Health Benefits Renewal Form, if a completed Form 10–10EZ is already on file at VA), and a completed VA Form 10–10SH, State Home Program Application for Care—Medical Certification. These VA Forms must be submitted at the time of admission and with any request for a change in the level of care (domiciliary, hospital care or adult day health care). In case the level of care has changed or contact information is outdated, VA Forms 10–10EZ and 10–10EZR are set forth in full at § 58.12 and VA Form 10–10SH is set forth in full at § 58.13. If the facility is eligible to receive per diem payments for a veteran, VA will pay per diem under this part from the date of receipt of the com-

pleted forms required by this paragraph, except that VA will pay per diem from the day on which the veteran was admitted to the facility if the completed forms are received within 10 days after admission.

(b) VA pays per diem on a monthly basis. To receive payment, the State must submit to the VA medical center of jurisdiction a completed VA Form 10–5588, State Home Report and Statement of Federal Aid Claimed. This form is set forth in full at § 58.11 of this chapter.

(c) Per diem will be paid under §§ 51.40 and 51.41 for each day that the veteran is receiving care and has an overnight stay. Per diem also will be paid when there is no overnight stay if the facility has an occupancy rate of 90 percent or greater. However, these payments will be made only for the first 10 consecutive days during which the veteran is admitted as a patient for any stay in a VA or other hospital (a hospital stay could occur more than once in a calendar year) and only for the first 12 days in a calendar year during which the veteran is absent for purposes other than receiving hospital care. Occupancy rate is calculated by dividing the total number of patients in the nursing home or domiciliary by the total recognized nursing home or domiciliary beds in that facility.

(d) Initial per diem payments will not be made until the Under Secretary for Health recognizes the State home. However, per diem payments will be made retroactively for care that was provided on and after the date of the completion of the VA survey of the facility that provided the basis for determining that the facility met the standards of this part.

(e) The daily cost of care for an eligible veteran's nursing home care for purposes of §§ 51.40(a)(1) and 51.41(b)(2) consists of those direct and indirect costs attributable to nursing home care at the facility divided by the total number of residents at the nursing home. Relevant cost principles are set forth in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular number A–87, dated May 4, 1995, “Cost Principles for State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments.”

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(f) As a condition for receiving drugs and medicines under this part, the State must submit to the VA medical center of jurisdiction a completed VA Form 10-0460 for each eligible veteran. This form is set forth in full at § 58.18 of this chapter. The corresponding prescriptions described in § 51.42 also should be submitted to the VA medical center of jurisdiction.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 101, 501, 1710, 1741-1744)

(The Office of Management and Budget has approved the information collection requirements in this section under control numbers 2900-0091 and 2900-0160)

[74 FR 19432, Apr. 29, 2009, as amended at 77 FR 59320, Sept. 27, 2012]

§ 51.50 Eligible veterans.

A veteran is an eligible veteran under this part if VA determines that the veteran needs nursing home care and the veteran is within one of the following categories:

(a) Veterans with service-connected disabilities;

(b) Veterans who are former prisoners of war;

(c) Veterans who were discharged or released from active military service for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty;

(d) Veterans who receive disability compensation under 38 U.S.C. 1151;

(e) Veterans whose entitlement to disability compensation is suspended because of the receipt of retired pay;

(f) Veterans whose entitlement to disability compensation is suspended pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 1151, but only to the extent that such veterans' continuing eligibility for nursing home care is provided for in the judgment or settlement described in 38 U.S.C. 1151;

(g) Veterans who VA determines are unable to defray the expenses of necessary care as specified under 38 U.S.C. 1722(a);

(h) Veterans of the Mexican border period or of World War I;

(i) Veterans solely seeking care for a disorder associated with exposure to a toxic substance or radiation or for a disorder associated with service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Persian Gulf War, as provided in 38 U.S.C. 1710(e);

(j) Veterans who agree to pay to the United States the applicable co-pay-

ment determined under 38 U.S.C. 1710(f) and 1710(g).

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 101, 501, 1710, 1741-1743)

§ 51.59 Authority to continue payment of per diem when veterans are relocated due to emergency.

(a) *Definition of emergency.* For the purposes of this section, emergency means an occasion or instance where all of the following are true:

(1) It would be unsafe for veterans receiving care at a State home facility to remain in that facility.

(2) The State is not, or believes that it will not be, able to provide care in the State home on a temporary or long-term basis for any or all of its veteran residents due to a situation involving the State home, and not due to a situation where a particular veteran's medical condition requires that the veteran be transferred to another facility, such as for a period of hospitalization.

(3) The State determines that the veterans must be evacuated to another facility or facilities.

(b) *General authority to pay per diem during relocation period.* Notwithstanding any other provision of this part, VA will continue to pay per diem for a period not to exceed 30 days for any eligible veteran who resided in a State home, and for whom VA was paying per diem, if such veteran is evacuated during an emergency into a facility other than a VA facility if the State is responsible for providing or paying for the care. VA will not pay per diem payments under this section for more than 30 days of care provided in the evacuation facility, unless the official who approved the emergency response under paragraph (e) of this section determines that it is not reasonably possible to return the veteran to a State home within the 30-day period, in which case such official will approve additional period(s) of no more than 30 days in accordance with this section. VA will not provide per diem if VA determines that a veteran is or has been placed in a facility that does not meet the standards set forth in paragraph (c)(1) of this section, and VA may recover all per diem payments made for the care of the veteran in that facility.